AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A hydrogen storage and/or transportation container comprising a hydrogen storage alloy material,

wherein said hydrogen storage alloy material has a structure where ultrafine particles of Pd or Pd-Ni alloy are precipitated and dispersed in a parent phase of ZrO_2,

wherein said hydrogen storage alloy material is prepared by subjecting an amorphous Zr alloy used as a precursor to a heat treatment in air or an oxygen atmosphere so as to form the structure,

wherein the Zr alloy has a composition, in atomic %, expressed by the following formula:

~~$Zr_{100-a-b}Pd_aNi_b$ (wherein $15 \leq a \leq 40$, $2 < b \leq 10$)~~ $Zr_{65}Pd_{30}Ni_5$.

2. (Previously Presented): The hydrogen storage and/or transportation container as defined in claim 1, which exhibits a hydrogen storage amount of 2.5 weight % or more in a weight ratio relative to Pd contained in said hydrogen storage alloy material.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented): The hydrogen storage and/or transportation container as defined in claim 1, wherein the hydrogen storage alloy material is made by a method comprising:

preparing a melt of a master Zr-Ni alloy formed through a melting process;

rapidly solidifying said melt at a cooling rate of 10^4 K/s or more to form said amorphous Zr-Ni alloy; and

subjecting said amorphous Zr-Ni alloy to an oxidizing heat treatment in air or an oxygen atmosphere at 250 to 350˚C to selectively oxidize said alloy element Zr so as to allow ultrafine particles of said Pd or Pd-Ni alloy to be precipitated and dispersed in a parent phase of ZrO_2.